

Music, Song, and Dance Program. Mr. Connolly is an established Irish Fiddler and Gaelic musician, and his great success and technical precision in competitions in the '60s were extremely influential in setting a high standard of craft for today's players. Mr. Connolly first came to the United States in 1972 as a member of the first Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) tour. After immigrating to the United States in 1976, Mr. Connolly settled in Groton, Massachusetts, and entered into the realm of teaching to extend his knowledge of music at the request of Larry Reynolds, President of the local branch of CCE. His presence and committed teaching in Boston is influential throughout the East Coast, making it a badge of honor for the area's musicians to have a tune from Mr. Connolly, and his work with the Gaelic Roots Summer Program at Boston College makes the tradition accessible to an ever broadening circle.

In 1993, Mr. Connolly began the Gaelic Roots Summer Program as an indoor festival, which has progressed into an array of workshops, exhibitions, classes, and a concert series. In addition to his teaching, Mr. Connolly is a recipient of the Irish Echo Traditional Artist of the Year Award for 2002, and a ten-time winner of the Irish National Championship. He has produced numerous recordings, and a 132-page book with more than 50 Irish tunes and collaborations with other artists. Mr. Connolly has had the honor of representing Ireland on three "Masters of the Folk Violin" tours organized by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. In 1990, he won a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship Award, one of three recipients from over 2,500 applicants. Also, Mr. Connolly appeared on the nationally televised "Today Show" and was profiled by Boston's WCVB-TV5 "Chronicle Program." He initiated, produced and cohosted with Larry Reynolds Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann's ongoing weekly radio program of traditional Irish music on WNTN-1550 AM Boston. He also co-hosted the Irish segments of Boston's WGBH National Public Radio series "Ethnicity."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Connolly's dedication and leadership to Irish music that I ask he be recognized. Mr. Connolly possesses the intelligence and poise of an excellent fiddle player, and graciously extends his talent to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to first wish former President Reagan and his wife well on his birthday and my thoughts and prayers are with them as he deals with the terrible disease of Alzheimer's. While I support those provisions in H.J. Res. 19, the bill went well beyond a simple birthday wish. I could not in good faith cast a vote for a bill that stated that the Reagan Administration ensured renewed economic prosperity when millions of Americans were hurt by its economic policies.

RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND LANG

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man who passed away on January 30th, 2003. Mr. Raymond K. Lang led a life of service both to his country and to his community. He served in the Air Force for four years, reaching the rank of sergeant, and was also a member of the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Aerial Port Squadron for twenty years, retiring in April 2002 at the rank of master sergeant.

In 2001, he received an associate's degree in computer science from the Community College of Rhode Island, and until his untimely death, he worked diligently as a project leader in the information technology department at the Wolverine Joining Tube Company. He was an active member of the Asbury United Methodist Church and a committed volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Lang is survived by a wife, Debra Jean Lang; two sons, Peter R. and Ryan C. Lang; two brothers, John J. Lang Jr. and James E. Lang; and one sister, Lorena M. Zisk. They are a testament to his wonderful and giving life. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who mourn his loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

BAIT AND SWITCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD:

[From The New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

BAIT AND SWITCH

(By Bob Herbert)

President Bush has learned how to deliver a moving speech. But Tuesday night's State of the Union Message did not address the most important question facing the American people: What kind of nation are we becoming?

The president spoke passionately about bringing "food and medicines and supplies and freedom" to the Iraqi people. But he is leading a hard-right administration here at home that is seriously eroding the economic security, the access to health care, the civil rights and civil liberties and the environmental protections of the American people. The first part of the president's speech was crafted to create exactly the opposite impression. He promised an economy "that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job." He proposed a prescription drug benefit for some retirees. And he said he was ready to commit \$1.2 billion to research into environmentally friendly hydrogen-powered automobiles.

But those were largely bait-and-switch proposals. Despite rising unemployment, the president's plan for the economy was simply a continuation of his tax-cut mania. There was nothing in the way of a job-creation program or a real economic stimulus. And there was absolutely zero help offered to the states and local governments whose budgetary knees are buckling under the weight of their worst fiscal crisis since World War II.

The president's prescription drug benefit, tempting at first glance, is tied to a restructuring of Medicare that will curtail, not enhance, the delivery of health services to the elderly. It was designed to look like an act of compassion. It's not.

The hydrogen cars initiative was a particularly deft touch for a president who has been hammered for his environmental policies. Hydrogen-powered autos could make a difference in the long term, say 20 or 30 years from now, or more. But what is much more significant is that Mr. Bush has stood like a rock with the opponents of increased fuel efficiency for the cars we're driving right now. The payoff for immediately improving vehicle fuel economy would be huge. In addition to saving money for motorists, it would cut pollution, curtail our contribution to the greenhouse effect and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

We heard nothing about that in the speech.

The Bush administration is changing the nation in fundamental ways. However one feels about a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, over the long term a bullying, go-it-alone foreign policy wedded to a military doctrine of preemption is a recipe for destabilization and paranoia around the world. And despite its professed commitment to compassionate policies at home, the administration's obsession with tax cuts is proving destructive on two fronts: It is draining the nation's coffers of money for social programs (including Medicare and Social Security), and blocking any real attempt to invest in a range of programs and infrastructure initiatives that are crucial to the nation's long-term future.

Some of those programs relate directly to domestic security. These issues get short shrift in an atmosphere of imminent war. But I doubt that this is the kind of country most Americans want. And we are already beginning to pay the price. Local taxes are soaring and services are breaking down.

On the night of the president's speech, the governor of New Jersey, James McGreevey, announced that he would be cutting state aid to colleges and universities by 10 percent because of a \$5 billion state budget gap. In Connecticut, nearly 3,000 state workers have been laid off and Gov. John Rowland said another 1,000 needed to go. In some states the public school week is being curtailed. In some, prisoners are being furloughed.

These are telling indications of the real state of the union. As the most powerful nation on earth, and the world's only superpower, the United States has a particular obligation to use its might wisely abroad and to distribute its benefits fairly at home. That is not an easy mission for a hard-right-wing administration, which is why the Bush administration puts such a premium on the rhetoric of compassion.

Behind the veil of rhetoric is a Darwinian political philosophy that, if clearly understood, would repel the majority of Americans. <http://www.nytimes.com>.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MCCLAIN AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William McClain, a retired judge and former Cincinnati solicitor, who will be formally honored on February 26, 2003 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this